

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claim 1 is pending in this application, which has been amended herein. Claim 2 has been canceled.

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Published Patent Application No. 2002/0154809 to Yamagishi et al. Without conceding this rejection or the Examiner's characterization of the Yamagishi publication, claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of claim 2, which was indicated as being allowable. Applicant acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter with appreciation. Applicant submits that the rejection is thus moot. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Applicant filed an Information Disclosure Statement along with a PTO-1449 and two references on November 22, 2005. Applicant requests that the Examiner initial and sign the Form PTO-1449 to indicate consideration of the cited references, then return the same to Applicant's representative along with the next communication from the Patent Office.

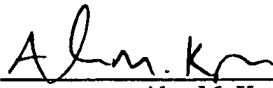
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submits that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Prompt passage to issuance is earnestly solicited.

JTOH
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Respectfully submitted,

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